



# countdown

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## Atlantis rollout depends on movement of Hanna



### ◆ Shuttle Update:

Managers at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Fla., will closely follow Tropical Storm Hanna to determine when

would be the best time this week to move space shuttle Atlantis to its launch pad.

As *Countdown* went to press, the Atlantis tentatively was scheduled to roll out from the VAB to Launch Pad 39A at 10 a.m. **today**.

If the storm changes its current track, managers will wait until it passes off the coast of Kennedy and then move Atlantis to the pad, most likely Saturday morning.

◆ **ELV Update:** At Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, final spin-balance testing of the integrated IBEX spacecraft and upper stage booster flight stack was successfully completed Aug. 16. The upper stage motor and the IBEX spacecraft were then moved to the Pegasus launch vehicle hangar Aug. 19-20. They will be attached to the Pegasus rocket Monday and Tuesday.

Meanwhile, at the Orbital Sciences launch vehicle hangar, prelaunch processing of the Pegasus XL rocket continues on schedule. Mating of all of the three stages now is complete, and the interface verification will take place this weekend.

■ **Workforce Gala** — Mark your calendars: On Sept. 27, KSC will host a Workforce Gala to celebrate all employees at the center. The "KSC Treasures our GEMS because Great Employees = Mission Success" event will be held at the Radisson at the Port Pavilion. There will be entertainment, plated dinner and

dancing - a great evening of fun. Tickets are \$25 per person. Make it a team event and reserve a table for your group! Come dressed to sparkle and shine and have a great time. Tickets are available at the NASA Exchange Stores or the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity (867-9171 or 867-2569) in Headquarters, room 2327.

■ **NASA News** — NASA's newest observatory, the Gamma-Ray Large Area Space Telescope, or GLAST, has begun its mission of exploring the universe in high-energy gamma rays. The spacecraft and its revolutionary instruments passed their orbital checkout with flying colors. NASA announced recently that GLAST has been renamed the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope. The new name honors Professor Enrico Fermi (1901-1954), a pioneer in high-energy physics.

"Enrico Fermi was the first person to suggest how cosmic particles could be accelerated to high speeds," said Paul Hertz, chief scientist for NASA's Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "His theory provides the foundation for understanding the new phenomena his namesake telescope will discover."

■ **KSC Fitness Centers' 2008 Intercenter Walk/Run** — The KSC Fitness Centers are sponsoring the Intercenter Walk/Run on Sept. 23 at the Shuttle Landing Facility. The 2-mile walk/run, 5k run and 10k run are FREE for all spaceport employees. Stop by either fitness Center by Sept. 19 to pre-register. Late registration takes place at the race. The 2008 ICR rainout date is scheduled for

## Pegasus XL rocket ready for mating with IBEX

Oct. 1 at 5 p.m. at the SLF.

If you are interested in being a volunteer, please call 867-7829 or send an e-mail to [Debra.L.Orringer@nasa.gov](mailto:Debra.L.Orringer@nasa.gov) with any questions.

■ **Did you know?** It takes 95 percent less energy to recycle aluminum than it does to make it from raw materials? Making recycled plastic results in a 70 percent energy savings, and making recycled glass results in a 40 percent energy savings. *Rethink recycling. It matters more than you think.*

■ **PM Challenge 2009 Call for Speakers** — *Proposal submissions are due Sept. 12!* Connect and discover! Do you have a topic of interest to NASA program and project management stakeholders? Submit your speaker proposal for PM Challenge 2009. You can find out more at: <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/speaker2009.htm>.

■ **NASA Science** — High above Earth, astronauts aboard the International Space Station have taken one of the best-ever photos of electric-blue noctilucent clouds. Their image highlights a growing mystery: Where do these clouds come from and why are they spreading? You can read the full story at [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/25aug\\_nlc.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/25aug_nlc.htm).

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